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CONAN
THE
KING
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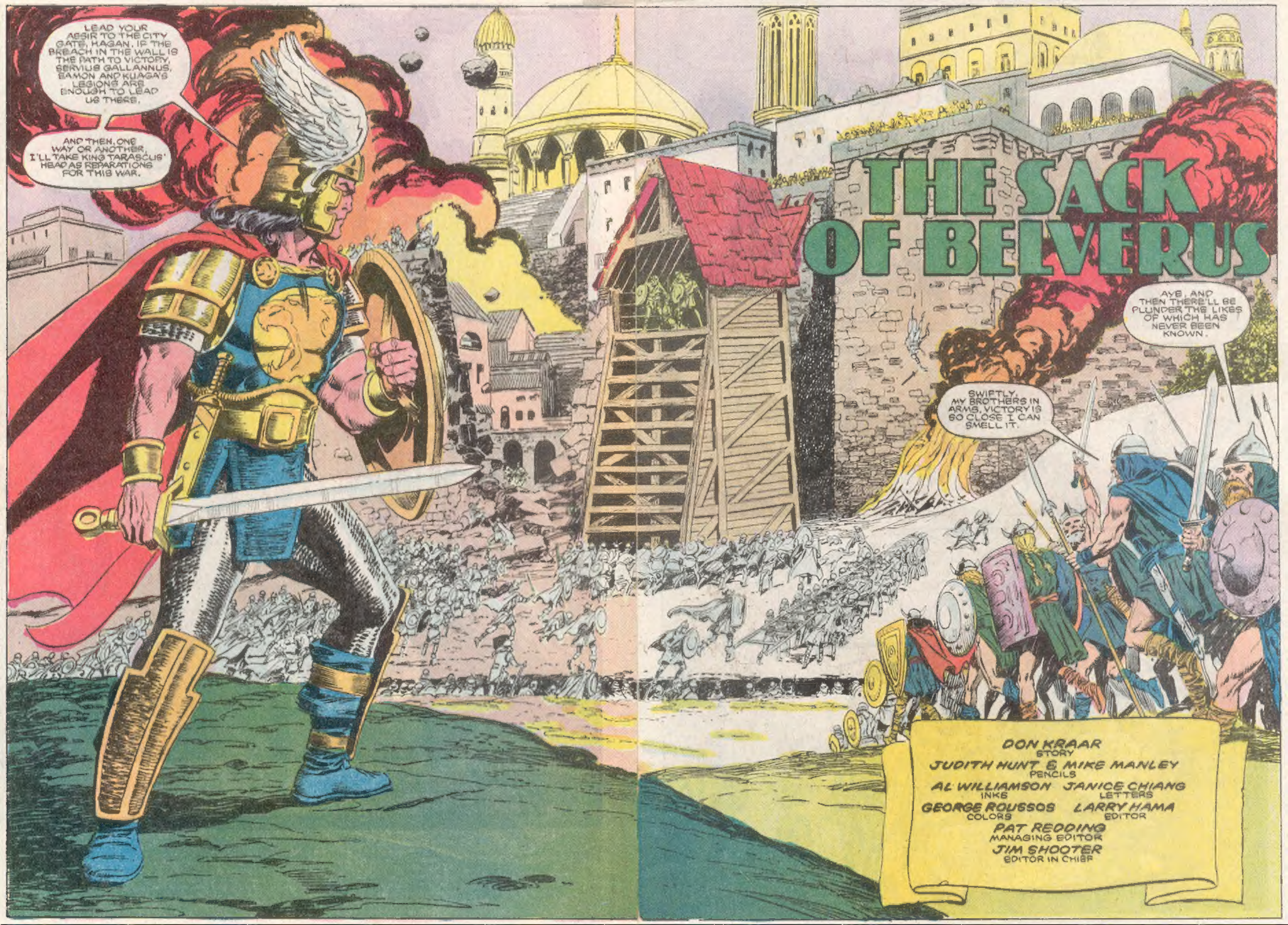
NOV

BY NOW, THESE NEMEDIAN DOGS REGRET THE DAY THEY EVER MARCHED INTO MY KINGDOM! BY THE TIME WE LEAVE THEIR LAND, THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE WAR ON US AGAIN.
AYE, MY KING, BUT FIRST YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE BELVERUS, BURN IT TO THE GROUND, AND SOW THE GROUND WITH SALT. THEN PERHAPS THESE NEMEDIANS WILL BE DISCOURAGED.
"KNOW YE, O PRINCE, THAT KING CONAN LED HIS HOST ACROSS THE BORDER INTO NEMEDIA AND LAY SIEGE TO THE CROWN CITY OF BELVERUS. THE BATTLE WAS FIERCE AND THE RESISTANCE STRONG, BUT THE FURY OF THE AQUILONIAN ONSLAUGHT COULD NOT BE STEMMED."
FROM THE NEMEDIAN CHRONICLES

CONAN THE KING™ Vol. 1, No. 37, November, 1988. (U.S.P.S. 589-610) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP. James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1986 by Conan Properties, Inc. CONAN THE KING (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Conan Properties, Inc. The advertising and editorial material appearing on pages 5, 7, 10, 12, 37, 39, 42, 44, 48, covers 2, 3, and 4 only, copyright © 1986 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.50 in Canada. Subscription rate $12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, $14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO CONAN THE KING, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.**


LEAD YOUR AESIR TO THE CITY GATE, HAGAN. IF THE BREACH IN THE WALL IS THE PATH TO VICTORY, SERVIUS GALLANNUS, RAMON AND KUAGA'S LEGIONS ARE ENOUGH TO LEAD US THERE.
AND THEN, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I'LL TAKE KING TARASCIUS' HEAD AS REPARATIONS FOR THIS WAR.
THE SACK OF BELVERUS
SWIFTLY, MY BROTHERS IN ARMS, VICTORY IS SO CLOSE I CAN SMELL IT.
AYE, AND THEN THERE'LL BE PLUNDER THE LIKES OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN KNOWN.
DON KRAAR
STORY
JUDITH HUNT & MIKE MANLEY
PENCILS
AL WILLIAMSON
INKS
JANICE CHIANG
LETTERS
GEORGE ROUSSOS
COLORS
LARRY HAMA
EDITOR
PAT REDDING
MANAGING EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

SOUND RECALL! WE'VE SPENT ENOUGH LIVES FOR ONE DAY! TIME IS ON OUR SIDE SINCE ARGOS AND OPHIR ABANDONED KING TARASCUS.

TELL THE TRUMPETER TO SOUND OFFICERS' CALL WHILE OUR TROOPS FALL BACK.

AYE, MY LIEGE, AS YOU SAY.

YOU'RE BRAVE, MY KING, BUT I WISH YOU'D BE WISE AND NOT TAKE TO THE FIELD WITHOUT A BODYGUARD.

RUFIO, YOU'RE STARTING TO WORRY LIKE AN OLD WOMAN.

FATHER, THE DAY WAS NEARLY OURS! WHY DID YOU CALL RETREAT?

CONN IS RIGHT! THEY'RE WITHIN OUR GRASP, KING CONAN!

LET'S HAVE AT THESE JACKALS AGAIN!

IT'S LATE AND DUSK WILL BE UPON US SOON. THERE'S NO NEED FOR OUR OWN MEN TO SLAY EACH OTHER IN THE DARKNESS.

LET BELVERUS WAIT FOR THE INEVITABLE. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH NEMEDIAN FORCES AT NUMALIA TO RELIEVE THEM HERE.

I SEE, FATHER, AND I'M LISTENING AND LEARNING.

KING CONAN...

GALLOPER COMING IN, YOUR MAJESTY.

SIRE, THE NEMEDIAN GENERALS ARE FLYING A FLAG OF TRUCE.

THEN WE'LL HONOR THE RULES OF PARLAY AND HEAR THEM OUT.

NOW PERHAPS THIS BARBARIAN KING WILL SEE REASON.

AYE, IF WE TREAT HIM AS AN EQUAL, HE MAY RELENT AND SET A RANSOM FOR THE CITY, AS WELL AS FOR KING TARASCUS.

SPEAK, WHILE YOU HAVE THE CHANCE.

YOU HEARD MY CHIEF COUNSELOR. SPEAK UP, BUT MAKE IT BRIEF.

AS CIVILIZED MEN, SURELY WE CAN SET A RANSOM FOR THE LIFE OF KING TARASCUS...

CIVILIZED?! YOU CALL YOURSELVES CIVILIZED AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO MY KINGDOM? IF YOU ARE, THEN I'M PROUD TO CALL MYSELF A BARBARIAN!

I CAME TO NEMEDIA TO CONQUER--NOT TO STRIKE BARGAINS.

YOU'VE RAVAGED AQUILONIA WITHOUT MERCY AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES *CIVILIZED*. TO SHOW YOU WHAT I THINK OF *CIVILIZED* MEN SUCH AS YOU, I'LL MAKE YOU MY BEST OFFER.

MERCY AND SAFE CONDUCT FOR YOUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN EXCHANGE FOR ONE THING...

...THE HEAD OF KING TARASCUS.

MITRA...

YOU DEMANDED THE ONE THING THEY CANNOT OFFER.

AT LEAST I GAVE THEM A CHOICE.

THAT'S MORE THAN THEY GAVE THE AQUILONIANS THEY MURDERED.

IN TARANTIA, DERYCK, SON OF ROLF, THE AESIR CHIEFTAIN SLAIN BY KING CONAN*, IS NURSED BACK TO HEALTH BY PRINCESS RAGEGUND, WHOM HE KNOWS ONLY AS...

MOIRA, WERE YOU A SCULLERY MAID OR A QUEEN. IT WOULDN'T CHANGE THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT YOU

WORDS COME SO EASILY. TIME HAS A WAY OF MAKING THEM MEANINGLESS, DERYCK.

ONCE, I LOST SOMEONE I LOVED. I DON'T EVER WANT TO KNOW THAT KIND OF PAIN AGAIN.

*ISSUE #31.

THE SNOWS OF AESGAARD HOLD A SECRET. BENEATH ARE FLOWERS WAITING TO BLOOM WHEN THE SNOWS MELT IN THE SPRING.

BUT WHAT IF I AM NOT WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT ME TO BE?

I WANT YOU MOIRA, JUST AS YOU ARE.

MOIRA, WE MUST WAIT UPON THE QUEEN.

I'M LEAVING SOON. COME WITH ME! WE'LL LEAVE BEHIND EVERYTHING WE WANT TO FORGET.

I WISH IT WAS THAT SIMPLE, DERYCK. BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT NOT EVEN LOVE CAN CHANGE.

HURRY, MOIRA. THE QUEEN GROWS IMPATIENT.

I'LL CHANGE ALL THAT AND MORE. WE'LL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND THE MEMORY OF KING CONAN BEHIND US.

YOU WILL NEVER BE COMPLETELY FREE OF KING CONAN, DERYCK.

THAT VOICE... I KNOW IT WELL BY NOW.

IT'S YOU, THE ONE THEY CALL ZELATA. HAVE YOU REAPPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE TO TELL ME OF MY DESTINY AGAIN?

AYE, OF YOUR DESTINY AND THE DESTINY OF KINGDOMS, DYNASTIES, AND OF THE AGES.

DESTINY AWAITS YOU IN KING CONAN'S CAMP BEFORE THE WALLS OF BELVERUS. GO THERE. PLAY THE ROLE THAT FATE DECREES.

THE THOUGHT OF CONAN IS A BITTER REMINDER OF MY FATHER'S DEATH AT HIS HANDS. I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM.

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU CAN HELP LOVING SOMEONE SO CLOSE TO HIM.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?! WAIT, ZELATA...

YMIR'S CURSE ON YOU, WITCH THAT YOU ARE!

HOW MUCH LONGER CAN YOU CONCEAL THE TRUTH FROM HIM?

ONE DAY HE'LL LEARN WHO YOU ARE AND THEN HOW WILL HE FEEL ABOUT YOU?

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE FINDS OUT.

YOU'RE LYING TO YOURSELF, AS WELL AS TO HIM. YOU CAN'T DENY YOUR OWN IDENTITY FOREVER, MY CHILD.

I'D DENY MY NAME, MY BIRTHRIGHT, MY FATHER, AND EVEN YOU, MOTHER, FOR HIM.

YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK YOU CAN CONCEAL THE FACT THAT YOU ARE THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN WHO KILLED HIS FATHER, RADEGUND.

DERYCK SAID HE'D LOVE ME NO MATTER WHO I AM, MOTHER.

FACTS CAN MAKE LOVERS' VOWS RING HOLLOW.

I'LL GO WHEREVER HE TAKES ME. THERE MUST BE A PLACE WHERE ALL THIS CAN BE FORGOTTEN.

HASN'T IT OCCURRED TO YOU THAT I MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT-- *PRINCESS RADEGUND!*

OH, DERYCK, NO...

DERYCK, WAIT! YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE BEFORE I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN.

I'LL LEAVE BEFORE I LISTEN TO ANY MORE OF YOUR LIES, PRINCESS.

WE'RE STILL THE SAME PEOPLE WE WERE AN HOUR AGO. WHAT WE FELT THEN IS STILL REAL.

NO-- AN HOUR AGO I TRUSTED YOU.

THEN BELIEVE ONE THING--THAT I LOVE YOU. I HAVE SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU ON THE ROAD TO ARGOS. AND NOTHING--*NOTHING* WILL EVER CHANGE THAT.

WHEN I LOOK INTO YOUR EYES IN THE SUNLIGHT I CAN SEE YOUR RESEMBLANCE TO YOUR FATHER. BUT THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU...

...HE DOES HIS KILLING WITH A SWORD.

DERYCK-- NO...

IN THE PORTAN PORT OF KORDAVA KING XANTAUS OF ARGUS GREETS A VESSEL THAT HAS RETURNED FROM STYGIA

CRASSUS QUEEN LEORA WISHED ME TO CONVEY HER APOLOGIES THAT SHE COULDN'T BE HERE TO GREET YOU PROPERLY

KING XANTAUS YOUR COURTESY AS WELL AS THAT OF THE QUEEN OF OPHIR OVERWHELMS ME

DON'T BANDY WORDS WITH ME WIZARD! EVEN NOW KING CONAN IS AT THE GATES OF BELVERUS. WE WILL NEED EVERY ADVANTAGE WHEN HE TURNS ON US

WAIT, XANTAUS..

NOW WHERE IS THE BOY?

I HAVE BEEN TRUE TO MY WORD

FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE

HERE IS THE BOY I SPOKE OF -- AN ADEPT TRAINED IN THE BLACK ARTS SUCH AS YOU CANNOT IMAGINE

AYE, THAT AT LEAST BOY CAN BE KNOWN THE RIGHTFUL HEIR OF CONAN THAN NO AN EVIL IMP OF HELL!
AYE, THAT AT LEAST BOY CAN BE KNOWN THE RIGHTFUL HEIR OF AQUILONIA

IS THE BOY NOT THE LIVING IMAGE OF THE FATHER?
IT WILL APPEAR BUT IT WILL BE [illegible] THAT WILL TELL THE TALE

LEORA WILL JOIN US AS SOON AS SHE [illegible] WILL BE READY TO FACE CONAN
IS THE BOY NOT THE LIVING IMAGE OF THE FATHER?

AYE, ONE LOOK IS ENOUGH TO CONVINCE ME THAT CONAN SIRED HIM
AND I STOLE HIM AT BIRTH AND HAD HIM TRAINED IN THE BLACK ARTS IN STYGIA HE HAS NO IDEA WHO HIS REAL PARENTS ARE
FOR WHAT COULD BE MORE FITTING THAN TO DESTROY CONAN WITH HIS OWN SON?

HAIL KING CONAN

WE DRINK TO YOUR HEALTH, MY KING!

THE ARGOLLONIANS ARE THE PUREST BREED OF MEN ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH. EVEN THE CIMMERIANS FROM WHENCE I CAME ARE NOT AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS.

I WISH I COULD SAY AS MUCH FOR MY OWN PEOPLE. BUT YOU ARE WISE TO KEEP YOUR WOLVES FACING OUT.

THE THANES OF ARGOLL INTEND TO HELP THEMSELVES TO THE ANCIENT CUSTOM AND MOVE AGAINST

THEIR BRAWLING SILENCES AT ONCE AS CONAN STRIKES THE HEAD OF ARGOLL

YET ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN TRUST THE WOLVES NOW?

I COME AND GO AS THE GODS BID ME.

AND WHAT DO THE GODS WANT OF US, ZELATA?

DESTINY HAS ALREADY CHOSEN THE NEW KING OF AQUILONIA!

AND YOU WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN PLACING HIM ON HIS THRONE

AND CREATING A DYNASTY.

HAIL, KING CONAN! IT IS I, PERYCK, SON OF ROLF!

SOMETHING WRONG? AM I UNWELCOME HERE?

NO DERYCK. A WARRIOR OF PROVEN COURAGE IS ALWAYS WELCOME IN OUR RANKS. BUT WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED?

THERE IS NO EASY ANSWER FOR THAT. IT WAS AS IF FATE GUIDED MY HORSE'S HOOFS HERE.

SOMETIMES FATE NEEDS A LITTLE ASSISTANCE. ASSIGN HIM AS YOU SEE FIT, HAGAN.

AVE YOUR MAJESTY

FATHER, ALL IS IN READINESS. OUR TROOPS AWAIT YOUR ORDERS.

GOOD. MY SON, IT'S TIME THEY KNEW MY WILL.

YOU..

AYE, MY PRINCE, IT IS ME

WE MAKE OUR FINAL ASSAULT IN THE MORNING

IT WAS AS IF MY SOUL WERE LIFTED FROM WITHIN ME WITH NEW FULL POWER MEANING

IT IS AS IF I COULD REACH OUT AND GRAB A HANDFUL OF STARS WITH MY BARE HANDS

IT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING-- *THAT I HAVE BECOME A GOD!*

WITH ONE SWEEP OF MY HAND I COULD CAST CONAN'S ARMY INTO OBLIVION!

FOR NOW I AM OMNIPOTENT! NOTHING IS BEYOND MY POWER!

YE... YE... YOUR MA...NTY... OF COURSE...

I AM ALL KNOWING, ALL SEEING, THE KING OF KINGS. THE GOD OF GODS.

ACCH.

ANSWER ME WHEN I SPEAK TO YOU, YOU POT-BELLIED SWINE!

HOW DARE YOU DIE AND LEAVE ME, YOU HEAR ME?

NOW GET UP GET UP I SAY! I'M A GOD! I COMMAND IT!

IF YOU WON'T STAY WITH ME I'LL FIND SOMEONE ELSE

SOMEONE HELP! DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE GENKAL? I DON'T WANT YOU UNDERSTAND?

NO- - NOT YOU TOO? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY?

WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?

STAND BACK... STAND BACK ALL OF YOU OR INCUR THE WRATH OF THE GOD!

I'LL CAST YOU ALL INTO OBLIVION YOU HEAR ME?

NO, NO, DON'T TOUCH ME. REMEMBER MY HEALTH I'M NOT STRONG YOU KNOW

WH.. WHY?

KING CONAN SET THE PRICE FOR THE LIVES OF OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

THE PRICE WAS VERY CHEAP!

BEFORE DAWN.

TODAY WE MUST WIN A DECISIVE VICTORY BEFORE THE ARMIES OF ARGOS AND OPHIR ARE READY TO FACE US AGAIN, YOUR MAJESTY.

WHAT IS IT, SOLDIER?

YOUR MAJESTY, THE NEMEDIANS ARE SIGNALING US FOR A TRUCE

THROUGH THE RUINED STREETS OF BELVERUS

AND INTO THE AQUILONIAN CAMP RIDES A COMPLEMENT OF NEMEDIAN GENERALS.

YOU SET A PRICE ON THE LIVES OF OUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN, KING CONAN

I HAVE NO WISH TO PUT THEM TO THE SWORD AND NO NEED TO CARRY THEM OFF INTO SLAVERY.

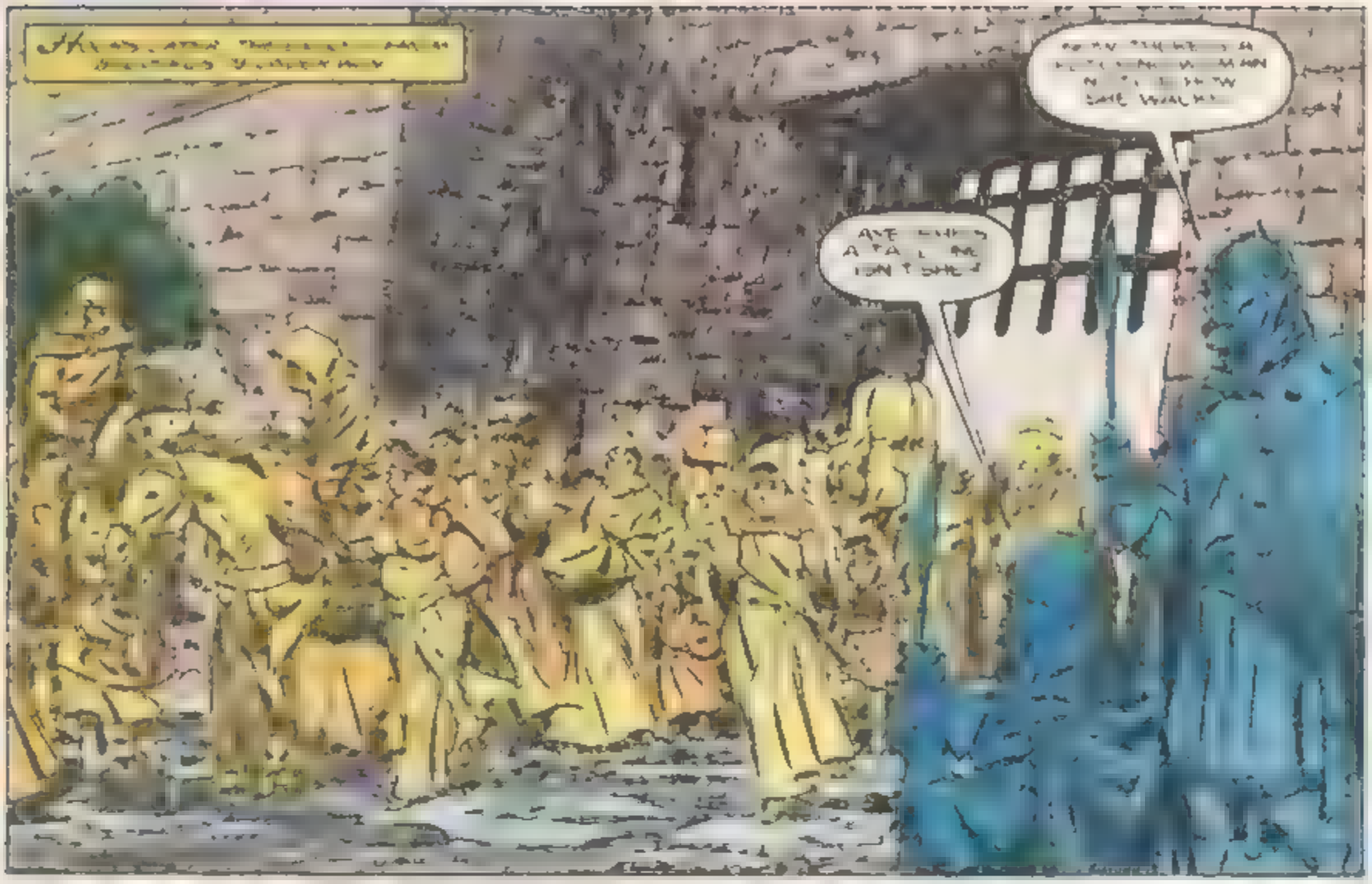
WE STAND READY TO MEET YOUR PRICE, KING OF AQUILONIA

HERE.

. SEE IF THIS SATISFIES YOUR DEMAND.

THUK

THE RANSOM IS PAID. YOUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN WILL HAVE SAFE ESCORT BEYOND OUR LINES, TO GO WHERE THEY PLEASE



UH

AND!!! WHERE DID YOU?

[illegible]

[illegible] WE'LL BE WIDOWS, ORPHANS AND OUTCASTS IN OUR OWN LAND

[illegible] MY CHILD ANOTHER CONQUEROR WOULD HAVE SLAUGHTERED US ALL

[illegible] YOUR MEN ON THE [illegible] TOWERS

AVE MY PRINCE

LOOK AT THEM WHAT KIND OF ARMY IS THIS THAT FOLLOWS KING CONAN?

AN ARMY FORGED TO AVENGE ITS HONOR, I FEAR

TODAY I HAVE NO TASTE FOR MY WINE

IT'S JUST AS WELL TODAY WE WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO CALL RETREAT [illegible]

FORWARD, DOG BROTHERS!

STEADY, KEEP YOUR SHIELDS UP AND YOUR HEADS DOWN!

THOSE SIEGE TOWERS WON'T MOVE BY THEMSELVES! PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT!

KEEP IT MOVING! DON'T LET THE PACE SLACKEN!

LOOK AT THEM! KILL ONE AND ANOTHER TAKE HIS PLACE!

NOW YOU SONS OF AESGAARD, HOLD NOTHING BACK! THERE'S PLUNDER WAITING FOR US BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FOR IT!

AYE!

IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO SETTLE OLD SCORES WITH THESE NEMEDIAN SCUM ONCE MORE! HAVE AT THEM

THE THANES OF AESGAARD HAVE COME!

COME ALONG AND FOLLOW OLD GAMON INTO THE BREACH! WE'LL GIVE 'EM A TASTE OF CIMMERIAN STEEL!

DON'T HESITATE OR WE'LL BE MASHED TO PULP IN THE OPEN

NO TURNING BACK, LADS! THERE'S ROOM HERE FOR ALL OF US!

PALLANTIDES, HOW DO YOU LIKE THE VIEW FROM THE WALLS OF BELVERUS?

WELL, MY PRINCE, I'LL LIKE IT BETTER WHEN WE'VE LEVELED THE WALLS TO THE GROUND..

AND THERE ARE NO MORE NOMEDIANS LEFT TO DEFEND THEM!

BEFORE WE ACCOMPLISH THAT WE'LL HAVE SOME HARD WORK TO DO, THOUGH!

BUT, I CAN SEE THE END IN SIGHT!

WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS THERE'LL BE NO MORE BELVERUS!

COME, MY FAIR-HAIRED NEMEDIAN FRIENDS... LET PALLANTIDES SHOW YOU HOW TO DIE!

TASTE MY STEEL!

THEN MAY YOU N[illegible] KNOW ANYTHING ELSE, CONN!!

LET'S SIGNAL MY FATHER TO SEND IN THE NEXT WAVE

THERE--[illegible] THE SIGNAL FROM CONN!

AHHAYEEAH

DEATH
DEATH TO THE
MARSUVANS

HARDER HACAN, THESE GATES WILL NOT YIELD! WE'VE GIVEN OUR ALL!

THESE GATES HAVE WITHSTOOD INVADERS FOR GENERATIONS! EAMON, THERE ARE MANY WHO TRIED AND FAILED TO TAKE BELVERUS!

FROM SOMEWHERE IN THAT CAT! SAY IT OFTEN ENOUGH WE'LL LOSE MORE MEN IN THE BREACH!

AGHEEEE!

THE DEVILS ARE POURING MOLTEN LEAD ON US!

THAT CAT! MY OWN CHILDHOOD FRIEND! I'LL HAVE A WORD WITH YOU!

SIRE--DON'T RIDE OUT THERE WITHOUT A BODYGUARD!

HAGAN, YOU LOOK AS IF YOU COULD USE SOME HELP!

AYE, THE MORE FOOLS ON THIS THING THE BETTER, MY FRIEND!

NOW HAGAN, DERYCK- ALL TOGETHER!

THE CITY IS OURS! SPUR YOUR HORSES AND READY YOUR STEEL!

THE LAST OF THE RED TANIT HAS FOLLOWED SHE SOME NINE LANDS HAVE THROWN DOWN THEIR ARMS THEY'RE LITTLE MORE THAN BOYS SHALL I PUT THEM TO THE SWORD?

NO LET THEM GO I INTEND TO MAKE WAR ON CHILDREN LET THE BEYKINGS GO TO NUMALA

BY THE TIME WE MARCH THERE THEY MAY BE READY TO SERVE NOT RATHER THAN FACE THE SAME FATE AS BELVERUS

FATHER THERE'S AN OLD SCRIBE IN THE TEMPLE OF MITRA WHO SAYS HE KNOWS YOU AND HE HAS SOME THING YOU SHOULD SEE!

LEAD ON, CONN

SO CONAN, AT LAST YOU'VE RETURNED TO BELVERUS IT'S BEEN THIRTY YEARS SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER BUT I'VE FOLLOWED YOUR EXPLOITS.

COME NOW YOU DON'T REMEMBER BALMUS THE SCRIBE?

BALMUS--OF COURSE IT MUST HAVE BEEN MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS BY NOW *

SO HE WAS RIGHT I SEE

* SEE THE CONAN GRAPHIC NOVEL *THE WITCH QUEEN OF ACHERON*-- LARRY

LOOK, FATHER, *THE NEMEDIAN CHRONICLES*, YOU'VE MADE HISTORY!

WHY HAVE YOU FOLLOWED MY ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS EVEN BEFORE I BECAME A KING BALMUS?

IT WAS JUST A SENSE I HAD ABOUT YOU

YOU SEEMED LIKE THE KIND OF MAN WHO COULD CHANGE THE MAP OF THE WORLD SO, WHEN YOU SEIZED THE THRONE OF AQUILONIA, IT CAME AS NO SURPRISE

AND SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THERE ARE MORE VOLUMES TO BE WRITTEN ABOUT YOU

IN SOUTHERN NEMEDIA,

LOOK AT THEM

AYE. WE HAVE NO CHOICE. TURN THEM AWAY!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW

KING CONAN WAS MORE MERCIFUL THAN THIS

CROSS THE BORDER

QUEEN LEORA WILL TAKE PITY ON YOU.

MITRA. TIMES

ONE'S ONLY HOPE IS THE CHARITY OF

THE HORDE OF STARVING, EXHAUSTED AND DESPERATE REFUGEES ENTERS THE MOUNTAIN PASS BETWEEN NEMEDIA FROM OPHIR...

THEY'RE ENTERING THE PASS BY THE THOUSANDS, QUEEN LEORA.

SOON THEY'LL ALL BE INSIDE THE PASS.

GOOD.

THEY'VE COME TO THROW THEMSELVES ON OUR MERCY! TO BEG FOR HELP!

WE AWAIT YOUR COMMAND, MY QUEEN.

QUEEN LEORA, A DISPATCH HAS JUST ARRIVED FROM KING XANTAUS.

SO, CRASSUS HAS RETURNED WITH THE BOY HE TOLD US ABOUT. IT SEEMS AS IF OUR PLAN TO DESTROY CONAN IS NEARING FRUITION, THIS TIME.

OH, YES. IT'S TIME TO HELP THE POOR STARVING REFUGEES.

QUEEN LEORA, WE HUMBLY BEG YOU TO SHOW US MERCY AND CHARITY.

FOR WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO RECEIVE MAY YOU BE TRULY GRATEFUL.

MITRA, NO...

AGHHHHEEEEE...

KING CONAN'S ARMY WILL MARCH THROUGH THIS PASS. WE'LL HELP THEM, TOO.

IN NUMALIA, AN ENVOY RETURNS WITH A MESSAGE FROM KING CONAN...

GO ON, LET'S HEAR THE REST OF IT.

...AND UNLESS WE THROW DOWN OUR ARMS AND OPEN THE GATES OF THE CITY...

...NUMALIA WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS BELVERUS, MY LORD.

HE GIVES US LITTLE CHOICE.

TELL KING CONAN THAT THE CITY IS HIS IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS PLEDGE OF SAFETY FOR OUR LIVES AND PROPERTY.

WHY SHOULD WE ACCEPT CONDITIONS WHEN THE CITY IS OURS FOR THE TAKING?

AYE, WE COULD HAVE IT IN A FORTNIGHT.

WE'LL ACCEPT THEIR TERMS, THOUGH, AND HONOR THEM. WE'LL NEED NUMALIA AS A STAGING GROUND FOR THE INVASION OF OPHIR.

CONTINUED IN ISSUE #38 -- THE CROSSROADS

KING CONAN

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

LARRY HAMA
EDITOR
PAT REDDING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Deadline Slayers,

Both my wife and I are avid Marvel fans. And although my wife loves DD, I think CONAN THE KING is the best book on the market. And so, while I'm waiting on issue #36, I thought I would write and tell you why I know CONAN THE KING is the best.

I really enjoy King Conan's maturity. In his old age, he has become a very wise man and is still a bold warrior. Not only that, but since he is now a king, his actions not only carry consequences for his family, but for his nation as well. As a family man, I really enjoy that aspect of his personality.

Keep up the great work. I think your current storyline is terrific.

Bill Hammons

Dear Don, Mike, Vince, Janice, George, and Larry,

CONAN THE KING #34 was very good! This book just continually improves! Long live King Conan and long may CONAN THE KING tell his adventures! Thank you and have a good day!

George A. Euilbouer
Angie, Louisiana

Dear Larry,

I just finished reading issue #35 of CONAN THE KING. The storyline seems to be dragging a little, but the artwork more than makes up for it. Both Hunt and Nichols do outstanding work. Also, the coloring by George Roussos complements what they did. It's about time to move on; please give Conn, Radegund, and the Aesir, Deryck, more room in the book.

You guys have a tendency to overdo the dragons and the giant lizards. There are many other types of mythical creatures available to you. So why don't you use them? Some of the monsters have intelligence, so they won't always have to seem like more mere hungry animals. Have a griffin and an evil ruler combine their talents. They can terrorize a town or a kingdom into doing their bidding. There are many more ideas, but I'll leave that for you to think up.

TNT,
Michael Usen
Chicago

Dear Larry, Pat, and Jim,

I'll tell you right up front that I don't care if you print this letter or not. I do hope you read it and it would please me immensely if you acted upon it.

I'd like to let you know that I am very disappointed with the last few issues of CONAN THE KING. The storyline is as strong as ever, but the artistry has taken a definite turn for the worse. The simplistic drawing of the characters and non-descript backgrounds really turn me off. I have been told that this style is used to "set the mood" or "convey feelings." If this is the case, I would say it "works" on about one frame every three or four pages. It looks more to me like the artist got so excited about the story that he forgot how to draw. Other times, it makes me think you are trying to save money by using less talented people on your staff.

Maybe I'm being too picky, but when I pay over a dollar for a comic, I expect high quality work.

The most disturbing part of all is that I had previously thought CONAN THE KING to stand head and shoulders above the mediocrity so prevalent in comics today. Now, I'm afraid it will soon join the growing list of comics that "used to be" worth buying.

Sincerely,
Jeff McNish
Mahomet, IL

P.S. If it makes you feel any better, I've never seen a Steve Ditko comic I liked either. I mean, "Shade: the Changing Man?" Give me a break.

Well, Jeff, we hope you may like the work of Judith Hunt inked by Art Nichols, and, alternately, Al Williamson. Style and taste are very subjective, though. Ditko is a pro. Some people love his work above all else.

Dear Conan the King,

I greatly enjoy CONAN THE KING. It is good to see the ideals of bravery and honor ring through your magazine every month. The stories and art are the best in the comic world.

Since I am an Odinist (one who believes in Odin, Freya, and Thor as his gods), I would like to read more about Conan's gods and beliefs. His gods are very much like mine and I think it is very important to know the belief system that the people of Conan's time practiced.

The warrior way of life is not an easy one. We can see that in the Conan stories. Anyone out there that would like information on a Warrior's Religion can contact me at the address below.

Keep writing those great stories until we all meet in Valhalla.

James S. Templar
68-925 Concepcion Road
Cathedral City, CA 92234

James, you should get ahold of a copy of THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE CONAN UNIVERSE, and read the section about gods and religion for a summary of Hyborian ways. But basically, Conan swears by Crom. Crom helps a man who helps himself, and that's about it. Conan is not a man of prayer.

Hey guys,

I've been reading the Conan stories since 1975, and the latest stories in CONAN THE KING have been great, the art fantastic . . . as usual with this series. I've also been an avid collector since the "par excellence" days of Mister Barry Windsor-Smith. Mr. Docherty has great structure and foundation in his pencils. An embellisher, rather than a mere inker, would do it justice (perhaps Mr. Ishwerwood again). Sorry if I am too critical.

Again, the story with the queen and family really tends to domesticate the "lion." A Cimmerian blood doesn't cool. And then, I couldn't believe that Xantaus puppying out so easily, even to that Amazon chick, Leora Shoot, she was even shipping him! Poor, poor Tarascus . . . talk about being at wit's end! Or, rather, "you can't get good help anymore," ha ha.

Great battle. Conan's son Conn sounds like he could spark a great new series. He's new, he's young, wild, strong, and mostly he's a Cimmerian. Crom bless his soul.

Great job. I'll keep on buying, even though it's a buck and a quarter.

Albert Hubbard
Panama City, FL

Dear people,

CONAN THE KING #35 was a good comic. I loved the weird-looking creature . . . will he be in the next issue?

Will there be any Conan figures?

Marc Buxton
New York

No, Conan's men killed the creature. It was too hungry. And, no. No Conan dolls.